

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
March/April 2002



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Material for inclusion in Echo Ireland
should be sent to

Dave Moore, EI4BZ
Dooneen,
Carrigtwohill,
Co. Cork
ei4bz@eircom.net
021-4883555/087-6290574

The views expressed in Echo Ireland do
not necessarily represent the views of the
Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
May 10th**

**April 7th
Limerick Rally
Jury's Hotel, Ennis Road,
Limerick.**

**April 28th
Irish Amateur Television
Club
2nd Annual Convention
Scout Hall, Kells**

**May 18th
IRTS Committee Meeting
Portlaoise**

**May 26th
Terenure Rally
Terenure College**

Mayo Rally Organisers



**Frances EI5J and Gerry EI4GD, part of the highly efficient team
that organised the IRTS AGM Weekend in Knock.**

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Society Officers 2002/2003

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|----------------------------|
| President: | Dave Moore, EI4BZ. | 021-4883555 | ei4bz@eircom.net |
| Vice President: | Sean Nolan, EI7CD. | 01-2851599 | ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie |
| Secretary: | Sean Donelan EI4GK. | 01-2821420 | seandonelan@indigo.ie |
| Treasurer: | Brendan De hOra EIGV | | ei3gv@eircom.net |
| AREN Co-Ordinator: | Stephen Wright EI5DD | | wrights@eircom.net |
| Auditors: | Ger Gervin EI8CC, Tom McLoughlin EI400. | | |
| Awards Committee: | Peter Grant EI4HX (Chair) | 042-9332641 | ei4hxperimental@eircom.net |
| | Sean Nolan, EI7CD. | 01-2851599 | ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie |
| | John McCarthy EI8JA | | ei9dbb@eircom.net |
| Awards Historian: | Sean Nolan EI7CD | 01-2851599 | |
| Book Sales: | Peter Grant EI4HX. | 042-9332641 | ei4hxperimental@eircom.net |
| Contest Manager: | John McDonnell EI6IR | 094-60127 | ei6ir@eircom.net |
| EMC: | Paul Kirkby EI6FE. | 061-360122 | ei6fe@eircom.net |
| Euro Com | Sean Donelan EI4GK | | |
| Gaeilge | Pádraig Ó Meachair EI7GK | 0404-67658 | ei7gk@esatclear.ie |
| HF/Awards/WEIC Manager | Sean Nolan EI7CD | 01-2851599 | ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie |
| IARABD | Joe Dillon EI4FV | 01-8390812 | sodioluin@eircom.net |
| IARU | Dave Moore, EI4BZ. | 021-4883555 | ei4bz@eircom.net |
| IARUMS | Thos Caffrey, EI7FIB | | thoscaffrey@hotmail.com |
| Membership Officer: | Joe Ryan EI7GY | 01-2854250 | jryan@iol.ie |
| Morse Testing Co-Ord.: | Sean Donelan EI4GK | 01-2821420 | seandonelan@indigo.ie |
| Chief Morse Tester: | Dan Lloyd, EI3AE. | | |
| P.O. Box Manager | Michael McNamara EI2CL | | ei2cl@eircom.net |
| Publications Editor: | Dave Moore, EI4BZ | 021-4883555 | ei4bz@eircom.net |
| QSL Inwards Manager: | Pat Fitzpatrick, EI2HX. | | |
| QSL Outwards Manager: | Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI | | |
| Incoming QSL Sub Managers: | | | |
| 0,1, Series Calls & SWL: | Dermot Adams, EI7IX. | | ei7ix@eircom.net |
| 2 Series Calls: | Sean McMorro, EI6IN, | | |
| 3 Series Calls: | Jim Ryan, EI3DP, | 021-4632365 | sigma4@oceanfree.net |
| 4 Series Calls: | Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX | | |
| 5 Series Calls: | | | |
| 6 Series Calls: | Rory Hinchey EI4DJB. | | |
| 7 Series Calls: | Dermot Adams, EI7IX. | | ei7ix@eircom.net |
| 8 Series Calls: | Gerald Kenneally EI8HT. | | |
| 9 Series Calls: | Declan Lennon, EI9HQ. | | |
| Radio News Editor: | Mark Wall, EI7IS | 087-6302026 | ei7is@qsl.net |
| VHF Manager: | Joe Fadden EI3IX. | | joe_fadden@yahoo.com |
| WAI Awards Manager: | Tom Rea EI3GP. | 093-35523 | tomrea@eircom.net |
| WAI Book Sales: | Noel Mulvihill EI6HW. | 0902-74726 | nfmulvihill@eircom.net |
| Webmaster | Leslie Long EI4DU | | leslielong@eircom.net |



From the Editor.....

Brendan Trophies

The big news as we wrap up this issue (on March 25th) is the claim that Atlantic has been spanned on 2 metres. Alex N2PIG and his wife Debra VA2PIG claim to have completed a QSO on Tuesday March 19th. The mode used was the new meteor scatter mode WSJT (see page 23) Initial reaction from the expert groups has been sceptical to say the least and we wait with the interest to see what transpires.

AGM

Another AGM has come and gone and great credit must be extended to the Mayo Group for a very well organised weekend in Knock. Everything went to plan and all who attended went home happy. Its great to see a relatively new club take on this big job and do so well. Next years venue has not been decided but it is hoped to finalise a decision at the next committee meeting. (May 18th in Portlaoise)

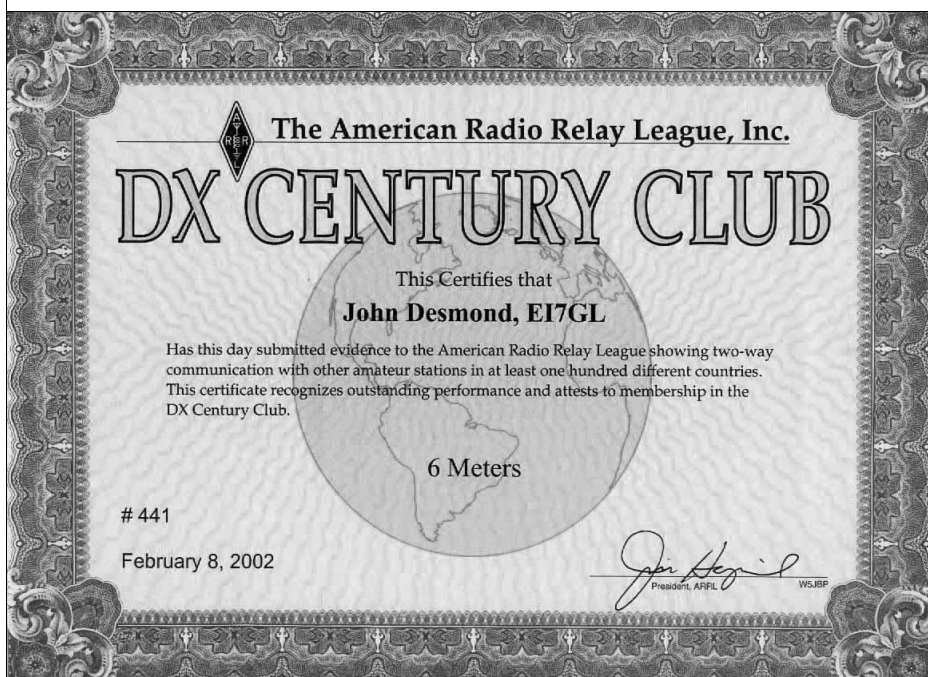
Committee

The first meeting committee of the new committee has been held and all the jobs allocated. Club representatives are reminded that they must be accredited. A list of club members must be sent to the Membership Officer Joe Ryan EI7GY, who will verify that rule 16.1 is being complied with. We look forward to seeing a few new club representatives at the next meeting.

ODTR

It was great to have Dave Thom from the ODTR present at the dinner at Knock. He took questions from the floor and addressed most of the issues that concern the Society. See report on page 7. The introduction of CW at 5 wpm is dependant on the implementation of the new regulations and unfortunately it looks like these may be delayed for a while. There are issues in them far more important than the CW issue and these will have to take priority
73
Dave EI4BZ

EI's first DXCC on 6 Metres John Desmond EI7GL



SILENT KEY

Tommy Curwen EI3HV/GOBZQ

It is with deep regret that we learned of the death of Tommy Curwen EI3HV/GOBZQ which occurred in London.

Tommy retired to Ireland in the early nineties and located in Limerick. It was not long before the antennae were erected and Tommy was on the air with his "new" callsign EI3HV. He could be heard regularly on both the HF and VHF bands. He became an active member of Limerick Radio Club and participated in all the club activities. He also served on the committee of the club for a number of years.

Tommy was a quiet reserved gentleman – always willing to lend a helping hand when the need arose. He was a true amateur in the best sense of the word and displayed all those noble qualities in his dealings with his radio amateur friends.

Tommy was first and foremost a city man, having spent most of his working life in London with British Rail. The call of home beckoned and Tommy decided to return to the UK to be near his immediate family.

It was with great sadness that his friends in Limerick Radio Club learned of his sudden death over Christmas.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends on his sad loss.

May he rest in Peace.

Ar dheis De go raibh a hAnnam dhilis.

Tony Condon EI2AW

International Marconi Day Saturday April 27th



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,
13 Hazel Road, Togher, Cork
ei2hy@iol.ie

Welcome to the second On The Air column for 2002.

Conditions on all HF bands have been outstanding with superb openings even on 6m to the Far East and Australia demonstrating the resurgence of Cycle 23 in recent months, which suggests a double peak, as the accepted "first" peak is confirmed as April 2000.

If this turns out to be accurate it will make this cycle the third in a row to be "double peaked".

Certainly conditions seem to be up compared to this time last year.

To illustrate this the monthly median Critical Frequency for December 2000 was 11.65 MHz while for December 2001 it was at 13.2 MHz, a difference of 1.55 MHz. This might not sound much but with the F2 region MUF for a 3000 km path being about 3 times the critical frequency, that 1.55 MHz difference in critical frequencies translates to a MUF roughly 5 MHz higher in December 2001 than December 2000.

All that meant a higher level of ionising in the ionosphere which would help the F2 propagation which gave some unexpected openings on 6m.

By plugging the HF Beam into the new Kenwood TH-F7E Handheld I've heard XW0X in Laos and various DU's on six along with TT8DX in Chad, V51C in Namibia, 7P8Z in Lesotho and numerous ZS's. We eventually pay for these enhanced conditions though with Flares and CME's making their presence felt and as I'm writing this there have been some minor Radio Blackouts occurring, reaching R1 at times on a scale which reaches R5 at its most severe

Band Reports

It was a case of second time around for the two major DX-peditions on now as Ducie Island and San Felix both hit the bands on Saturday March 16th as VP6DI and XR0X.

After some initial problems with the generators, the Ducie Island gang are off to a great start and are sticking to the game plan by running 21.295 MHz all the time, unfortunately the first day was spent working JA's and NA only and eventually working Europeans by numbers and at times by country leading to the inevitable on-air criticisms and comments but hopefully it will all settle down hi!,

The San Felix gang co-ordinated with the Ducie gang before leaving to avoid clashes of frequencies at the same time which we had with the Cocos and Trindade Islands both on the same frequency and both listening up ! All this activity has certainly kept DX'ers well satisfied with a rare DXCC Entity now on almost every week !

The four main players during February and the first half of March were of course the aforementioned TI9M from Cocos Island, PW0T from Trindade, VP8THU on the South Sandwich Islands and VP8GEO on South Georgia who all put outstanding signals into EI on the major HF Bands.

Not sure if any EI's caught PW0T on 6m but there were reports of some G's in Cornwall making the logbook.

The Cocos gang made over 80,000 QSO's with 1,000 plus on Top Band and 300 on 6m while the Trindade gang had 65,000 contacts in the log.

Showing these Big Guns how to operate from a rare DXCC with barefoot 100 watts and verticals Declan EI6FR, and Dermot EI5IQ, done us EI's proud by being part of the Multi-national team that activated both the South Sandwich Islands as VP8THU and South Georgia as VP8GEO.

Located on Southern Thule Island the VP8THU team operated from Hewison Point Peninsula (59°27'S, 27°25'W) using four Kenwood TS50's and single element Force 12 Vertical dipoles for each of the bands from 10m to 20m, the lower bands of 30m and 40m were ¼ wave verticals with elevated radials, there was no 80m and 160m operation from the South Sandwiches.

A total of 80 hours on-air time was achieved as VP8THU.

At South Georgia things were better in terms of comfort as the team were able to operate from the manager's house at the old whaling station located at Husvik Bay (54°10'S, 36°45'W) and the team were able to keep VP8GEO going for 7 days and 10 hours to finish up with an overall total from both entities of 70,428 QSO's on CW, SSB and RTTY, a great job showing that it's not all about equipment but depends on operating skills from both sides.

The full team consisted of EI5IQ, EI6FR, HB9ASZ, K0IR, K4UEE, K5TR, N5KO, PA3FQA, VE3EJ, W3WL, W7EW and 9V1YC.

Watch out for the video as James Brooks, 9V1YC, did the Campbell Islands, Clipperton and Bhutan videos.

There was a lot of other rare and interesting DX out there as well but they tended to be slightly overshadowed by the previously mentioned groups. Baldur, DJ6SI, and Karl, DK2WV, both came on unexpectedly from Western Sahara as S07X and S07V respectively. Mike, GM0HCQ, popped up from the South Orkneys Signy Base as VP8SIG at the end of February.

A new club station came on from Dhaka the capital of Bangladesh in the form of S21FHQ, the HQ station of DAIRS-Foundation for International Amateur Radio Service- QSL this one to N4VA. Staying around South East Asia, Hiro XW0X continues to be active on all bands and had some company when some Thai ops led a scouting trip to activate XW1HS in advance of a major combined Thai/Laos full blown trip in April.

TO4T caused some confusion as many people thought it was mainland France when it actually was the French dependency of Guadeloupe, normally FG, cards go to F6HMQ.

An unusual "slim" turned up on the bands with the call B0YA on CW claiming to be on Antarctica and saying QSL's to LU0ARC. What make the story interesting is that "boya" is Spanish for a shipping "Buoy" and plans are afoot by the Argentine club to set a buoy loose in the South Atlantic with an automated transmission on Morse on possibly 20m using a LU/MM call sign. Amateurs will be able to interrogate the buoy. The buoy will respond with its callsign, position, temperature, wave height, atmospheric pressure, solar radiation level, propagation data, and battery health. The project team is considering whether the buoy can respond to the interrogating station with a signal report; this will depend on the tests for battery consumption.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Another supposed pirate was Bruno who operated as 5R8/F5DKO but now hopes to obtain a full 5R8 call so if you worked him on his trip to Nosy Be (AF-057) and hope to receive IOTA or DXCC credit then I wouldn't hold your breath!

Island chasers were kept going with a trip to Cham Island (AS-162 New) by some JA's and were QRV with various calls like 3W3C and XV3C and 3W2LI/3.

All was not rosy on the DX front though as the much anticipated operation from P5, North Korea, by Hrane, YT1AD, came very close to being QRV but a last minute "guest" appearance by a high ranking military officer to the hotel where P5A was due to go on air lead to him imposing a ban until permission from the military authorities could be obtained, needless to say this never appeared so despite having the station set up and ready to go a very frustrating weekend was spent listening to the various slims coming on as P5/YT1AD! Eventually the military officer returned and simply said "no transmission until further notice", needless to say a very disappointed Hrane arrived back home with the comment "Never again!"

If you want to hear YT1AD's version of events a recording of the interview on Radio Austria International by Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC can be downloaded at the following URL: http://roi.orf.at/intermedia/im_aktuell.html

Another casualty were Jim, G3RTE, and Phil, G3SWH, who had planned to come on from Midway Island as W4M but the closure of the Hotel and other facilities on the Island means that the scheduled flights no longer fly there and to charter a plane or boat to get there is beyond most peoples means so Midway might become a place needing a full blown sponsored DX-pedition in a few years time hi!

Also due to come on from Midway was Tom, DL2RUM, who changed his travel plans to be QRV as A35TL first, and is currently active as ZK2CW on Niue Island.

I received an interesting log extract from Tony, EI5EM, who shows what can be worked at the low power level.

Tony sent me a photo of his 10 MHz (30m) home brew rig which he runs at the 4 watts QRP limit and has produced QSO's with DJ8GQ, GM3OAV/qrp, OK2FEI, PA0SIM, RX4CD, S51WO

and SM6CTW, a great achievement given the fact that 30m is a shared band with commercial interests operating various Data modes at high powers.

In contrast the QRO (100 watts!) log of '2HY offers nothing much of interest with, as usual, IOTA's make up the bulk of QSO's for the last few weeks.

On 10m were CV1F (SA-057), PJ6/PA3GIO/M, PW0T, TI9M, XR5SM (SA-070), XW0X, YA5T and YI9OM, 15m has a measly two contacts in the form of KG4ZK and PW0T and finally plenty of Islands on 20m with 3D2SC (OC-095), 5W0PM, BI5P (AS-138), EP3UN, VY0/7N2FGG (NA-009), YA5T, YJ0APY and lastly ZY0SAT who's on St Peter and Paul's Archipelago (SA-014).

Up And Coming

Some trips coming up in the next few weeks are worth a mention.

Finishing up March, Ramon XE1KK, will operate from the contest station of HC8N on the Galapagos Islands between Mar 25-April 7 as HC8/XE1KK, while members of the Central Arizona DX Association head the opposite direction to Myanmar (XZ) where Dan, NA7DB, and two YL's will use XZ1DB, XZ1JB and XZ1SB.

Fresh from their trip to Temotu (H40) Tommy, VK2IR, and Bruce, VK2KLM, who are members of the International Radio DX Group are hoping to be on from Samoa (OC-097) with the planned call 5W0IR between March 28 to April 3rd.

We start April off with a now annual trip to Pratas Island scheduled for April 9-18 as BQ9P, VK9LT will be Jack, VK6CTL, on from Lord Howe Island (OC-004) for nearly two weeks from April 11-22.

April will see the 90th Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic and to commemorate the occasion GB90MGY will be QRV from Surrey, the birthplace of the Titanic's Chief Telegraphic Officer Jack Philips, from April 13-15.

Heading to Africa John, G3HCT, will try to be active again from Botswana as A25/G3HCT seeing as the last time family commitments (read it as XYL in tow!) led to no time to operate.

IOTA hunters might take note of Per, OZ1EQC, who hopes to activate nearly all of the IOTA numbers associated with Greenland (OX), the time frame will be April 23-May 8 and Islands visited will

include NA's 134 and the most recent one 220, the call OX/OZ1EQC will be used with cards going to OZ5KU.

Ending up proposed trips in April, Fabrizio IN3ZNR, has gotten his Laos call XW3ZNR re-issued for April 24-May 4.

May starts off the summer DX-ing fever and first to announce a trip in May are husband and wife team of Josep, EA3BT, and Nuria, EA3WL, who head to the African Republic of Congo (TN) and have applied for the calls TN3B and TN3W, all this from May 16-27.

A lot closer to home some French ops will activate Les Minquiers Plateau which are a mostly submerged reef of rocks at high tide, count for Jersey (MJ) for DXCC but are fairly rare for IOTA with the number EU-099, look out for them to fire up between May 17-21. Heading to Mongolia (JT) on a now regular trip will be Italians Nicola, I0SNY, and Gianni, I8KGZ, to once more use JT1Y.

For those of you who hope to join John, EI7GL, on the 6m DXCC listings here are a couple of Six Metre only trips planned: KH0/JF2QNM from Saipan Mar 28-April 1; more JA's 9M9/JL1CHV and 9M9/JM1OYV, also Mar 28-April 1.

Double Hop Sp-E down south to Morocco for Andre, HB9HLM, QRV as CN2DX June 1-22 and lastly going west for Lefty, K1IOL, and N1RZ, Tim, to come on from St Pierre and Miquelon (FP) between June 14-24.

Finally on Thursday March 14th CNN, and several other news agencies, are reporting that officials from the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro along with government officials from Yugoslavia came to an agreement to form the country called Serbia and Montenegro. This new move is thought to oppose Montenegro's independence movement, which was expected to come to a vote in May. The independence referendum has now been delayed for three years. The two republics would continue to have the same military and foreign policy, however they would "have separate economics, customs services and currencies". No mention of Kosovo was made in any of the releases.

DXers from around the world will be watching closely what happens in the near future.

That's it for this issue, my thanks to The Daily DX, keep listening.

73 de EI2HY

IRTS Annual General Meeting March

Knock, Co. Mayo - March 2nd & 3rd 2002

This year's IRTS AGM was the 70th annual gathering and the host club for the events was the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network.

The venue chosen was the Belmont Hotel in Knock and the enthusiasm, organisational skills and of course the hard work was evident from the moment we arrived at the venue on Saturday afternoon.

Many members arrived early at the hotel which was able to cater for all food requirements, something that is often not available at fancier venues.

A crowd of around eighty gathered for the dinner dance, with most parts of the country represented amongst the diners. Following a most enjoyable meal, the MC for the evening, John McDonnell EI6IR introduced the first speaker, Mr. Dave Thom for the Office of the Director of Telecommunication Regulation. In a wide ranging address, he dealt with many of the issues of concern to the Society and took a wide range of questions from the floor.

These issues will be outlined elsewhere in this issue as separate news items.

Dave Moore EI4BZ, Society President thanked Mr. Thom for his contribution and paid tribute to the Mayo Group for undertaking such a big event at this stage in their development.

Frances Taheny EI5J, Chairperson of the Mayo Group welcomed all the visitors to County Mayo and thanks the Society for choosing Mayo as the venue for the 2002 AGM weekend.

Excellent music was provided for dancing until late and the last to leave were very late indeed.

Sundays events kicked off with the rally opening at 1100. A large had gathered outside the door and were not disappointed when they got inside.

There was a wide range of commercial stands with the biggest being as usual Long Communications, Southeast Communication and Sean Martin.

Vine Antennas from Wales were present with a fine display of rotators and Rob Mannion mounted a stand for Practical Wireless.

There were several other excellent stands selling everything from computers and parts to tools, cameras and

lengths of aluminium tubing.

A feature of the event was the large bring and buy and this attracted a very comprehensive range of equipment, all of which was priced to sell.

A well set-up demonstration area was used to allow demos of satellite, ATV and logging software during the afternoon.

Annual General Meeting

A large crowd gathered for the IRTS Annual General Meeting and the Committee and Treasurer's report were adopted without any major debate.

A major part of any AGM is the award presentations.

There are three trophies for service to the society or to the hobby and as this was the 70th Annual General Meeting, they were presented this year to people who have provided long and valuable service to the members of the Society.

Sean Donelan has completed 10 years as Society Treasurer and as well as his work with the finances, he is also responsible for the distribution of Echo Ireland. To express our thanks to Sean he was presented with the Arup Cup.

Joe Ryan has maintained the members database since 1989 and has been very involved with the production of years books and other committee business.

Joe was presented with the Pat Conway Cup.

Sean Nolan EI7CD is another who has provided tremendous service to IRTS members over a long number of years. Sean is a former President of the Society and is the current Vice-President. He is widely known as the voice of IRTS each Sunday morning on 80 metres.

Sean was presented with the Sheila Piper Cup.

Every QSL card that has come into EI since 1980 has been handled by Mike McNamara EI2CL.

Mike has shown wonderful commitment to the job and there are always bags of cards to be distributed at every committee meeting.

To mark his 22 years of service to mem-

bers, Mike was presented with the Presidents Cup.

The Collins Cup was awarded to the East Cork Radio Group, EI7M for their continuing contribution to the development of the hobby in EI.

Recent achievements include the erection of EI0TEN, EI's first ten metre beacon operating on 28.209 MHz and the provision of an Internet gateway for the national PacketCluster system. As well as their other notable contest achievements, they have won field day trophies a total of 42 times over the past 15 years.

There are two trophies awarded for home construction. The Folan Shield was presented to John Melvin EI6AMB from Ballinasloe, Co. Galway for his construction of a 2 Metre multimode transceiver.

The Kevin Freeney Trophy was presented to John Corless EI7IQ for his work in building a remote antenna switching system.

There are three trophies for the Islands On The Air Contest, which is held each July.

The IRTS IOTA Trophy for the leading EJ station was won by EJ4GK.

The IRTS DX trophy for the top EI single operator was won by John EI8IR and the Hal Hodgins Key for the leading EI station in the 12-hour CW contest was won by Ken EI4DW.

A new trophy, the Tom Donnellan Cup was presented to the Society by Limerick Radio Club at the AGM.

This Cup is to commemorate the memory of the late Tom EI9BG and is awarded to the leading EI Single operator entry in the CQ World Wide CW Contest.

The first recipient was Tim Makins EI8IC.

Dave Court EI3IO was the winner of the EI7IQ 6m Shield and Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI was the first recipient of the Slievenamon Trophy for 70cm FM activity during the month of July.

See the list opposite for the various field day winners.

Trophies Awarded at AGM 2002

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Arup Cup | Sean Donelan EI4GK |
| Collins Cup | East Cork Group EI7M |
| Pat Conway Cup | Joe Ryan EI7GY |
| Sheila Piper Cup | Sean Nolan EI7CD |
| The Presidents Cup | Mike McNamara EI2CL |
| Folan Shield | John Melvin EI6AMB |
| Kevin Freeney Trophy | John Corless EI7IQ |
| Ian Morris Memorial Trophy | Thos Caffrey EI 1333 |
| IRTS IOTA Trophy | |
| IOTA 2001 EJ Winner | EJ4GK |
| IRTS DX Trophy | |
| IOTA 2001, Single Op. | John Barry EI8IR |
| Hal Hodgins Trophy | |
| IOTA 2001, 12 Hr. CW | Ken McDermott EI4DW |
| The Tom Donellan Cup | |
| Leading EI in CQWW CW | Tim Makins EI8IC |
| Slievenamon Trophy | |
| 70cms FM Activity | Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI |
| EI7IQ 6m Shield | Dave Court EI3IO |
| Paddy Daly Microphone | |
| SSB Field Day (Open) | East Cork Group EI7M |
| IRTS HF Shield | |
| SSB Field Day (Restricted) | Cork Radio Club EI5CRC |
| Pete Daly Cup | |
| CW Field Day (Open) | East Cork Group EI7M |
| Paddy Smyth Cup | |
| CW Field Day (Restricted) | Joe Ryan EI7GY |
| Thomond Trophy | |
| VHF/UHF Field Day (Open) | EI5IX Mayo R.E.N. |
| VHF Shield | |
| VHF/UHF Field Day (Restd) | Tipperary A.R.G. EI7TRG |

Theory Examination

A theory examination, hosted by North Dublin Radio Club, has been provisionally fixed for
Wednesday April 15th at 1400
 St. Brendan's Parish Hall,
 Coolock Village, Dublin 5.

Candidates who wish to sit the examination should
 get in touch with Tony Fay EI6EQB
 as soon as possible on
 087-2047008

Licensing Issues

New Regulations

The proposed new regulations were submitted by the ODTR to the Department of Public Enterprise in January and the Society only got a copy after the submission was made.

The Society did make submission about twelve months earlier. There were many items of concern to the Society and a meeting was immediately sought with the Department of Public Enterprise to raise these issues.

This meeting took place on March 13th and a comprehensive document was presented by the Society. This was well received and we await further developments.

Unfortunately, this means that the new regulations will not be implemented as early as planned.

EI/EJ

Confusion had arisen as to the status of the EJ prefix. Dave Thom clarified at the Dinner that the EJ prefix would be exclusively for Island use. This has been confirmed in writing.

Repeaters

The ODTR have agreed to revert to the established practice of using the national repeater co-ordinating committee to allocate repeater frequencies. This committee will be chaired by the IRTS President and will consist of two representatives of each repeater group.

Repeaters licences will not be issued to individuals and a separate callsign will be issued for each repeater. Remote switching facilities will be mandatory. A list of persons with access to the remote switching will be maintained by the ODTR.

This has been confirmed in writing.

Callsigns

All call signs will be issued in strict alphabetical order from here on.

Other issues raised in Knock with Dave Thom are under discussion and many of them are tied up in the new regulations.

UK Foundation Licence - Clarification

In responding to questions from the floor following his address at the IRTS Dinner on Saturday last 2nd March Mr. Dave Thom of the Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation made it very clear that foundation licences issued in the UK which use the prefix M3, MI3 etc are not CEPT licences and are not valid for use outside the UK.

He went on to emphasise that anyone using such a licence here and signing, for example, EI/MI3XXX would be reported by the ODTR to the Radiocommunications Agency in the UK and would be liable to have their licences withdrawn. He also emphasised that EI stations working any such stations would be operating outside the terms and conditions of their licences and would be liable to have their licences withdrawn by the ODTR. Mr. Thom went on to instance examples of recent successful prosecutions for illegal operation one of which involved fines totalling £2,500. He impressed on those present the resolve of the ODTR to pursue those involved in the illegal use of the frequency spectrum.

Holders of foundation licences are of course free to operate from their locations in the UK and to communicate with licensed radio experimenters and amateurs elsewhere in accordance with their licence conditions through repeaters or otherwise

Club Roundup

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network.

The March meeting of the Mayo Radio Experimenters reviewed the club's successful rally and made plans for trips to the Limerick and Enniskillen Rallies. Two demonstrations took place at the meeting. Dermot EI7IX and Brendan EI6IZ gave the large gathering a talk and demo of APRS using UI View and DX Atlas software with a Transmit-only TNC, the Tiny Track 2, which the lads had built earlier.

The TNC hooks up to any radio and uses GPS for the APRS.

John EI7IQ demonstrated the Remote Antenna Switching system, which will select any one of twelve antenna, without the need for coaxial cable from each antenna coming into the shack.

John won the Kevin Freeney Shield for home construction, with this switching unit, at the recent IRTS AGM.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month in Stensons Lounge in Ballyvary on the N5.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

South Dublin Radio Club St. Patrick's Day Activity

In keeping with a long tradition, members of South Dublin Radio Club set up a field day station for St. Patrick's Day.

This year, they activated Co. Wicklow. Eight members were involved in running the field day operation, which included three separate HF stations.

One station concentrated on the 15 metre "Irish" frequency of 21.317 MHz and on the Worked All Ireland 40 metre frequency, one worked DX on 10 metres and the remaining station operated on CW only.

The field day operation took place from a field in Knockadreet, which is near Roundwood.

It rained for most of the day, but the SDR members clocked up an impressive list of contacts, including many USA stations who were looking for QSOs with EI stations to mark St. Patrick's Day.

Limerick Radio Club AGM

The Limerick Radio Club held their AGM on Thursday the 14th April. There was a good turn out on the night.

The following appointments were approved.

Chairman - Paul Kirkby EI6FE
Treasurer - Tony Condon EI2AW
Secretary - Brian Toner EI9AL
QSL Manager - Alan Cronin EI8EM
QSL Manager USA - Joe Duffin EI8GT
Webmaster - Richard Cullinan EI8JE
AREN - To be announced

Committee members -

Mike Kingston EI2IX
Tony Liddy EI9IL
John Edgeworth EI6IW
Paddy Smith EI8GY

Paul EI6FE would like to thank all the members of the club for their work during the past year.

The Club have just recently launched their Web Site and please bear in mind that it is still under construction.

The address is www.geocities.com/limerickradioclub

Feel free to have a look and pass on any comments good or bad."

Dublin QRP Amateur Radio Club

Please note that the above club meeting nights have now been changed to Fridays at the Marino Institute of Education.

Brendan Rooney EI7HM.

Cork Dinner

A fine crowd gathered at the Park Hotel in Middleton on Friday March 15th where everyone enjoyed an excellent five-course dinner followed by a lively social evening that ran well into the early hours.

Especially welcome were Ingo DH5ST who is in Ireland doing his PhD at the Cork Institute of Technology, Anatoly LY2BCB now EI4JF, Chuck EI4IS, ex N6CFQ together with wife June, and two travellers from the Kingdom, Billy EI7CQB and Steve EI9FHB.

South Dublin Radio Club Annual General Meeting

The SDR annual general meeting took place on Tuesday 12th February at the club QTH in Marian Road, Rathfarnham. It was a "full house" with an attendance of more than 30. The attendance included Kevin O'Herlihy EI7IM, who now lives in Thailand and has worked over 200 countries since he moved there. Kevin was in Ireland for a visit.

At the AGM, outgoing chairman Jim Holohan EI4HH reviewed developments during the year, during which club members participated in many events, including contests and the JOTA weekend.

Treasurer Brendan de hOra EI3GV summarised the club's finances, while speaking in relation to the IRTS, Joe Ryan EI7GY outlined the main activities of the national society.

A new committee was elected for 2002, and is as follows:

Chairman - Tom McGrath EI7HT
Secretary - Mark Boothman EI9IB
Treasurer - Mark Condon EI7FNB

Other committee members are:

Peter Henshaw EI5JE
Daniel Cussen EI1443
Nicki Mullally EI1224
Tony Cummins EI7FKB
Tony Byrne EI1404
Peter Morrisson EI9ES

With 3 amateur television experimenters on the committee, club members can expect that ATV will feature significantly in club activities.

South Dublin Radio Club is one of the more active clubs in the Dublin area, with a typical attendance of 20 or more members every Tuesday night.

Cork Radio Club

Cork Radio Club had an interesting demonstration by John EI3EC on finding one's QRA locator. Members worked out their own particular locators.

Recently we had a discussion on problems with interference such as TVI. Suggestions on how to tackle this problem were examined.

The Club is now QRV on PSK and up to 60 contacts have been made on this mode already



Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group is to provide an emergency communication service for the Aherlow Failte Group in their annual hill walking festival on April 13th & 14th.

This local event in Tipperary has been increasing in popularity over the last number of years with in excess of 200 people participating over a 2 day walking festival on the Galtee Mountains.

TARG has supported this event for the last 3 years and the event has proved to be both enjoyable and rewarding for the Group.

This year Tipperary Amateur Radio Group will have approx. 10 members operating portable on the Galtee Mountains over the 2 days and EI7TRG/P will be operated from the base of the Galtees providing direct link to the emergency services

CW Field Day

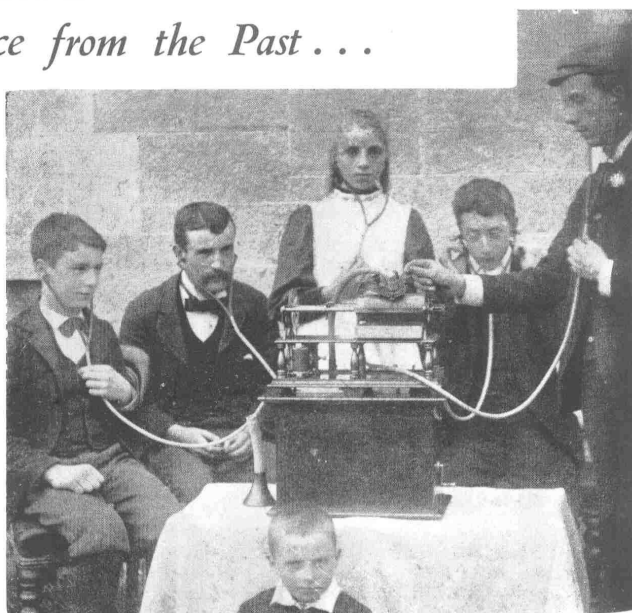
June 1st & 2nd

VHF/UHF Field Day

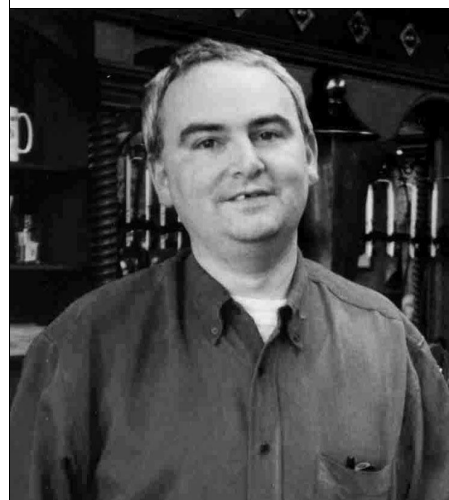
July 6th & 7th

A Voice from the Past ...

Our photo, culled from an old album, shows a 'talking machine' invented and built more than 60 years ago by an Inchicore man. Denis (Dinny) McNamara, a brass-finisher in the G.S. & W.R. Works, had an astounding fertility of invention having several original inventions in phonographs, photography and wireless round the turn of the century. The 'talking machine' of our photograph was presented as a raffle prize at a Bazaar in aid of the New Sanctuary of the Oblate Church in June, 1901. An enthusiast secretly crammed a supply of raffle tickets into the luggage of Fr. Pat. Brady, O.M.I., as he was going to the U.S.A. In America one of the tickets fell into the hands of the great Edison himself who promptly instituted legal proceedings to restrain the manufacture of the phonograph. Dinny McNamara appealed against the Injunction. A technical expert of the Edison Co. was sent to Europe to examine the controversial phonograph and found that it infringed in no way on the Edison patents. An offer of £250 from the Edison Co. for his rights to the machine was accepted by Mr. McNamara who, later, added several technical refinements to this invention and these were also bought up by the Edison Co.



New FOC Member Declan EI6FR



Congratulations to the Declan EI6FR who has recently been made of a member of the prestigious CW club, FOC, The First Operators Club.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Annual General Meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group was held on Wednesday the 16th of January last.

The new committee for 2002 is as follows;

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Chairperson - | John EI2HW |
| Vice Chairperson | John EI8JA |
| Secretary, | Martin EI5FDB |
| Treasurer - | Mick EI5DCB |
| PRO - | David EI7FYB |

Officers -:

Mark EI7IS, Gareth EI7FZB and Eoin EI7FXB.

Trustees -: Egidio EI9EQ and John EI8JA.

Other positions remain unchanged as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Repeater Keeper - | John EI8JA, |
| Technical Manager - | Egidio EI9EQ, |
| Webmaster - | Mark EI7IS |
| IRTS Representative - | John EI8JA. |

The membership subscription was set at €30. The club meets on the last Wednesday each month at the Roanmore Social and Sports Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Letters Page

Thanks to Tipperary Amateurs

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my thanks to local radio amateurs in the Tipperary area for the warm welcome they have expressed to me since arriving "on the air" here in Ireland last April as EI/G0JAY and more recently as EI5JF; my new call issued on 22nd November 2001.

I was a little apprehensive when first going on air and was soon pleasantly surprised at the reception I received, particularly on 145.450 and 433.450, the local hive of activity.

My first contact was with EI5HJ Jerry, and was followed by EI2DIB, EI6GO, EI7GO, EI3FSB and Hugh EI2HI (Cork). (There are many others too many to mention)

All these calls have, in the best traditions of the hobby, cemented my belief and confidence in what I feel is the best hobby in the world promoting international friendship.

Would you through your letters page extend my thanks to all those involved.

Andy Jay EI5JF/G0JAY

Mountain View,

Monameigh,

Cashel, Co. Tipperary

Dayton Hamvention 2002

Dear Dave,

Please remind all those travelling to the Dayton Hamvention this that there will be the usual gathering of the Irish Hour Net and friends at the Buckeye Belles Booth (a YL Club) near the main food hall at 3 pm on Friday May 17th and Saturday May 18th. All welcome.

There will also be a friendly dinner at 6pm. Details from Kay WA0WOF/EI7HQ at the Buckeye Belle's booth.

We hope to see lots of EI operators over the two days.

73

Joe Duffin W2ORA/EI8GT

Squares Table 2002

| Callsign | 2m | 4m | 6m | 70Cm | 23Cm | Total |
|---------------|----|----|-----|------|------|------------|
| EI5FK | 1 | 0 | 168 | 0 | 0 | 169 |
| EI7GL | 2 | 0 | 121 | 2 | 0 | 125 |
| EI3EBB | 1 | 0 | 59 | 1 | 0 | 61 |
| EI3IX | 1 | 1 | 54 | 1 | 0 | 57 |
| EI9IW | 2 | 0 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 53 |
| EI2JD | 5 | 0 | 45 | 3 | 0 | 53 |
| EI7FAB | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| EI6IZ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Square table updates should be sent to EI3IX at joe_fadden@yahoo.com

Germans narrowly vote to retain Morse Code

The German National Society, DARC, recently conducted a postal ballot amongst its members on the issue of whether CW should be abolished completely. (It is at 5wpm in Germany)

The ballot under legal control had the following result:

Of the 17,455 answers received, 8 530 voted in favour of keeping the existing situation (5 wpm examination) and 7,781 are in favour of abolition.

1 133 votes are nullify and 11 abstained

DJ6TJ 17 Mar 2002

Reading the Mail

By

Michael McNamara,

EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #18 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 20 January to 15 March 2002.

During the time small packets of cards (less than 1 kilo) came from Andorra, BFRR, Monaco, and NZARS.

In addition parcels from ZRS (4 kilos), ARI, HRS, JARL, PZK, REF, (2 kilos), kept up the numbers of cards.

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention:

J28NH, S5A, S50O, S50ZRS, S522R, S529A, S531R, S543C, S546Q, S584M, S52000, ZA/S51F.

Also very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting activity on 50 and 144MHz with Europe.

For island chasers the following were noticed:

D4A, 8Q7TV, 9A/S55A/p, 9V8ZB.

For those who worked the July 1999 9A/S55A/p expedition to Krk Island, the QSL is a little unusual. On one side of the multi-colour card there is a view of the camp and the group of operators. On the other side, as well as the usual QSO details, there is a footnote saying the group enjoyed the expedition until the tent was destroyed by the wind and, as a souvenir of the contact, a small piece of the tent has been affixed to the QSL!

That brings back a lot of memories of my own field-day and island operating experiences.

Congratulations to all concerned. For now, all best wishes and lots of good DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.

WEIC Awards Issued

Sean Nolan EI7CD the WEIC awards manager reports that two new awards were issued recently.

Award number 74 went to Don Redhead G4KXW (all 26 counties).

Award number 75 went to Vincent Val-lally SWL RS 88763 (20 counties)

Congratulations to both operators.

IRTS Committee Report

**Presented to the Annual General Meeting at Knock, Co. Mayo
on Sunday March 3rd 2002**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Seven Committee meetings were held during the year. The meetings were held in Athlone.

Committee meetings are dominated by long term policy issues and considerable time was spent during the year past discussing the many changes which are happening in our hobby.

BOOK SALES

The past year has seen Book Sales drop somewhat mainly due to the absence of Rallies.

Peter Grant EI4HX operates the book-stall, which also serves as a shop window for the Society.

It is hoped to operate Book Sales through the website in the near future.

CLUBS

There is a slight drop in the number of affiliated clubs from last year's high point of 36 and activity and membership of the clubs varies.

The Society recognises the valuable contribution made to the hobby by these clubs. For many, clubs are the entrance-gate to the hobby.

The Committee welcomes Club Representatives at meetings, and Clubs which do not qualify for Representative status, can always send an Observer to the meetings.

CONTESTS

Contesting in Ireland continues to prove popular with domestic and international contests well supported.

The CQ Worldwide and IOTA Contests have proven very popular with Irish operators, and interest in IRTS sponsored contests is high also.

EUROCOM

With so much legislation now emanating from the EU, it is imperative that the amateur community be alert to any developments that might impact on our hobby.

EUROCOM is an amateur watchdog group that examines legislation, directives and other material issued by the EU.

A regular newsletter keeps the Societies of the European Community informed of developments and, from time to time,

Societies are requested to lobby their own administrations on matters of immediate concern.

IRTS believes that EUROCOM performs a very useful function and is happy to be associated with its work.

IARU

IRTS is the member society for Ireland of the International Amateur Radio Union and has always played its part in representing the case of radio experimenters at this level.

Threats to our access to radio spectrum have never been stronger and there are many examples of spectrum being lost around the globe. Without a strong voice at the highest level, we would have a very short future on the bands, as we know them.

A portion of every member's subscription goes to fund the activities of IARU and IRTS is represented at Region 1 conferences.

Paul O'Kane EI5DI is the current Chairman of the Contest sub-group of Region 1.

IARU is currently very focused of the World Radio Conference scheduled for June 2003, where several very important issues of interest to radio amateurs and experimenters will be decided.

The main issue is the proposed extension of the 40-metre band, to a common 300kHz in all three regions, and this will involve the relocation of the broadcasters and others to new allotments. Delivery of this additional allocation is by no means certain.

Article S25 of the ITU regulations is also on the agenda and one of the paragraphs refers to the requirement for Morse code as a prerequisite to operating on the bands below 30MHz.

It is expected that this requirement will be lifted and each administration will then be able to decide the fate of the Morse requirement.

There are several other paragraphs in S25 of serious interest to us and these are being carefully monitored.

Another item on the agenda that could cause us problems relates to the frequency band 420-470MHz.

Submissions have been made by the Society to the Department of Public Enterprise (who will represent Ireland at the WRC 2003) on the above issues, and we would like to thank Mr. John Breen of that Department for all his help.

The Society provides many services to members but without doubt our most important function is representation at local and international levels

MEMBERSHIP

The total number of IRTS members at the end of 2001 was 976 a drop of seven on the previous year.

Of these, 806 were Irish license holders, 110 were short-wave listeners and 60 were overseas license holders.

This figure included 86 new members or lapsed members, who re-joined, the Society.

Every effort is made by the Society to keep membership levels up and in particular members who do allow their membership to lapse receive two additional reminders that their IRTS membership has expired.

A feature of the latest year is the increasing number of memberships obtained from those who come across the society's website, this attracts both EI and non EI recruits.

Licensing information from the ODTR, indicates an increase of licenses in use. The figures show that 14 new A licenses, and 19 new B licenses were issued, - 4 licenses were re-activated, 6 lapsed and 10 were silent keys, aggregating a net increase of 21.

Three of the six licenses that lapsed during the year had been issued to clubs.

MORSE TESTING

The Society is authorised by the ODTR to carry out Morse Tests on behalf of applicants for Class A licences. These tests are scheduled at most Rallies but are also arranged at appropriate venues as required.

(Continued on page 12)

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During the course of the year 17 candidates presented themselves for examination and 15 were successful. These numbers are almost exactly the same as those in the previous year and must be regarded as pitifully small.

A view has been expressed that many Class B licensees are awaiting the reduction in the qualifying Morse Speed from 12 words per minute to 5 words per minute before attempting the test.

Despite the CEPT recommendation that Morse Tests in CEPT countries should be at a speed of 5 words per minute, the ODTR has resolutely refused to sanction the reduced speed requirement in Irish tests on the spurious grounds that this change requires a new set of Radio Regulations.

The IRTS has pointed out to the ODTR that as a code free licence already exists in Ireland, no legal or statutory reasons exist to a reduction in the code speed. The obdurate stance of the Regulator is a source of serious disappointment and concern to the Committee and must be deplored.

It is believed that tests may also have been conducted by the Marine Radio Surveyors during the year.

However, no details are available as to either the number of tests conducted or the pass rate.

ODTR

The Committee is very concerned at the level of service to members, from the ODTR - The Office of The Director of Telecommunications Regulation, - who handle licensing in Ireland.

Despite repeated promises, much needed new licensing legislation has still not happened. The ODTR policy of frequent changes in personnel dealing with amateur radio licensing matters in the Office, has led to delays, inconsistency, errors and absolute frustration for members, who after all are *customers* of that body.

In addition, it is now virtually impossible to get a theory test in Ireland, - a totally unacceptable situation.

Serious mistakes are passed off as "teething troubles" and "misunderstandings."

There is an apparent total confusion over long established practices.

The introduction in a subtle way, of seemingly minor adjustment of license

and band application forms, with serious consequences for licensees, - is an extremely worrying new development. These changes have been introduced without prior notice or consultation.

As stated earlier, Ireland is now embarrassingly out of step with our fellow EU members on the issue of the 5 wpm CW speeds.

I am disappointed to report to this AGM, that the days when the Society could relax, and rely on the goodwill of the licensing authority are gone.

We have arrived at the sorry stage where hourly vigilance of ODTR practices is now essential to protect our interests.

Amateur radio experimenting in Ireland is subjected to a disinterested and uncaring Licensing body, which promises much, and delivers little, except empty promises and subtle changes with major negative implications, for our hobby.

PUBLICATIONS

The IRTS magazine Echo Ireland is published six times a year, and distributed to members worldwide.

The Committee wishes to thank all of the contributors who have spent many hours in front of the keyboard, typing away the many thousands of words which make up each issue. New contributors are always welcome.

The Committee recently discussed the possibility of the publication by electronic means only, of Echo Ireland, but departure from current practices is unlikely in the near future.

In recent times it has not been felt necessary to issue a revised Yearbook every year. As the most recent edition was published towards the end of the year 2000, no Yearbook was issued in 2001. Plans are afoot to publish the next edition during the current year and it is hoped to have this in the hands of the members before the Summer.

QSL CARDS

During 2001 the QSL Bureau continued to receive the usual high volume of cards from abroad. Statistics of the numbers of cards received are not maintained, however packets and parcels were recorded from as many as 35 different IARU societies.

Some of these parcels contained as much as 4000 cards.

Mail is collected each week from the PO Box by Michael McNamara, EI2CL,

who sorts the QSLs into call sign order. The bags of cards are collected by Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX who then distributes them to the team of QSL sub-managers.

Michael writes his "Reading the Mail" column for Echo Ireland to provide members with regular up to date and some detailed information on Incoming QSL Bureau activity.

Outgoing cards are despatched by Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI.

Cards need to be sorted in Country order, followed by Call sign order, before they can be despatched, and non compliant batches will be returned postage unpaid to the sender.

RADIO NEWS

The radio news was broadcast weekly throughout the past year and we thank the various newsreaders who do the job week in, week out, both on HF and VHF.

The news is also distributed via an e-mail mailing list and is also posted on the IRTS web site.

The news is produced by Mark Wall EI7IS.

The Society thanks all who contribute items of news.

We again appeal for more input, particularly from club officers.

Nuacht na Gaeilge is read from Wicklow each Sunday morning at 11.30 am on forty metres with varying responses.

RALLIES

Rallies are a somewhat scarce commodity in Ireland of late. It is only a few years ago, when the opposite was the case. Yet again, the few Rallies that are taking place are crammed into a small section of the calendar, giving traders little chance to unpack from one event, before it is time to start packing for the next one.

Rallies are an important aspect of the hobby and the IRTS Committee appeals to clubs to make a genuine effort to revive lapsed events, or start new ones.

VHF

There was a definite increase of VHF/UHF activity in EI during the past year.

A total of 23 Experimenters submitted their totals for inclusion in the Echo Ireland, VHF/UHF Squares table, - a record number.

Three operators worked over 400

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

squares, - a remarkable achievement. It is hoped to include a 10GHz column on the table this year, as a number of experimenters have expressed an interest in starting up on 10GHz narrowband.

2001 saw a large increase in 6 meters operation in EI, with many sporadic E openings during the summer months, and F2 propagation from mid September.

The Slievenamon Trophy presented by The Tipperary Amateur Radio Group, to promote and encourage more 70cm operation throughout EI will be awarded for the first time this year.

There was a good response to the 2 meters SSB and 4 meters activity days and evenings, which were established last year to promote greater use of these bands. There was also an increase in the numbers taking part in most of the different I.R.T.S contests, especially the 2 meters County Contests.

For the coming year plans are at an advanced stage for:

- *Off shore VHF/UHF island operation,*
- *10GHz narrow band experiments,*
- *4 meter & 2 meter SSB portable operation,*
- *Mountain top operation (4 metres & 70cm),*
- *70cm mobile operation,*
- *Activating some of the rarer Irish Maidenhead Locators on 2metre/6 metres.*

All of these activities will be announced in advance, in news bulletins and Echo Ireland.

WEBSITE

The Committee is grateful for the work of Leslie Long EI4DU, on the IRTS website.

The site provides a range of information about the society and the hobby in general.

The site remains popular with a steady stream of traffic.

In an effort to minimise the effect of the recent upsurge of junk and often, offensive e mail, the Society has been forced to change the contact address displayed on the site, on a regular basis.

Southeastern Amateur Radio Group Committee 2002



Front left to right-Mark EI7IS, John. EI8JA, Vice-Chairman. David EI7FYB. P.R.O., Back: Eoin EI7FXB, Gareth EI7FZB, Martin EI5FDB, Treasurer. John. EI2HW, Chairman.

WEIC, WAI AND EXTERNAL AWARDS

Despite the high level of WAI activity only three WAEIC awards have been issued during the year.

A total of 73 WEIC awards have been issued to date.

Perhaps those collecting counties on the WAI net would consider getting the QSL's for their counties contacts and so qualify at the same time for the WEIC award.

The Worked All Ireland Award Scheme now operates a net on fifteen metres as well as the main forty metre net.

Sales of WAI Books is now at 380 and rising. The scheme's popularity has crossed continental barriers, going from strength to strength.

The Society was not asked to validate any claims by EI's for awards made by other National Societies during the year.

MEMBERS INVOLVEMENT

The committee wishes to thank all of the members for your support throughout the year.

Special thanks goes to the group of volunteers, who are not committee members, who help to carry out the Society's work.

The hobby has many different aspects and it would not be possible to list all of the people individually who help.

The future of the Society and of the hobby in this country depends on the continuation of an active committee, supported by strong membership.

Worked All Mayo Award Winners

John Desmond EI7GL was a recent winner of the WORKED ALL MAYO - BASIC AWARD for working 10 of the Mayo Squares. John achieved this award for activity on two metres.

Gerry Morgan EI2CH received three awards. Bronze for working 25 Squares, Silver for 50 Squares, and Gold for working 75 of Mayo's 93 Squares.

Ivor A. Jordan, G4GET, received Basic, Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, and Joe Fadden, EI3IX received these four awards also.

The Scheme, which is broadly based on the Worked All Ireland Award, but for activating or working squares in County Mayo only, has proved very popular. Claims for awards should be sent to John Corless, EI7IQ - QTHR.

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

Treasurers Report for the year to 31st December 2001 to the Annual General Meeting Belmont Hotel, Knock, Co. Mayo 3rd March 2002

I have pleasure in presenting the accounts for the year 2001 for approval.

The Society's accounts show a surplus of £828 for the year and this amount has been added to the General Reserve. With the General Reserve now at a level in excess of £23,000, the Society is, for an organisation of its size, in a strong position financially.

For the first time in eight years an increase in subscription rates was implemented in October 2001. This additional income will help to relieve the cost pressures that I referred to in last year's report. Unfortunately, I understand that An Post has plans to increase postage rates during the coming year and this will eat up much of the additional income. It has always been the objective of the Society to provide its members with the highest level of service for the lowest practicable subscription and I am pleased to say that this situation has not changed. Subscription levels will only be increased when absolutely necessary and then by the least amount possible. This can only be achieved by members carrying out the work of the Society on a voluntary basis. An increase in the number of volunteers would however be appreciated!

Having held the office of Treasurer for ten years, I have now decided to retire from the position and pass the baton to someone with fresh ideas. My thanks to all those who helped me over the years but particularly to Joe Ryan EI7GY whose impeccably maintained record system did so much to make the job easier.

Signed:

Sean Donelan EI4GK
Treasurer.

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2001

| | 2000 | 2000 | 2001 | 2001 |
|--|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| Fixed Assets | | | | |
| Equipment | | Nil | | Nil |
| Prize Bonds | | £70 | | £70 |
| Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc. | | £594 | | £594 |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Stock for Re-sale | £3,408 | | £3,392 | |
| Cash on Deposit | £13,044 | | £18,519 | |
| Cash at Bank | £7,190 | | £3,559 | |
| - | | -----£23,642 | | -----£25,470 |
| <u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u> | | £24,306 | | £26,134 |
| | | ===== | | ===== |

Represented by:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| General Reserve | £22,178 | £23,006 |
| IARU Conference Reserve | £2,128 | £3,128 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | £24,306 | £26,134 |
| | ===== | ===== |

Dublin ARC Disbursements Account

| | |
|--|-------|
| Balance remaining for disbursement at 31 st December 2001 | £191 |
| | ===== |

Signed

Sean Donelan EI4GK
Hon. Treasurer

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31st December 2001

| INCOME | 2000 | 2001 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Subscriptions | £15,098 | £15,014 |
| Donations | £50 | Nil |
| Advertising | £689 | £100 |
| Book Sales | (£604) | (£562) |
| Investment Income | £378 | £561 |
| Sundry Income | £306 | £165 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | £15,917 | £15,278 |
| | ===== | ===== |

EXPENDITURE

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Newsletter Printing | £4,429 | £4,664 |
| Postage | £2,386 | £2,384 |
| Postage & Telephone | £1,176 | £804 |
| Yearbook Printing | £1,550 | Nil |
| Radio News | £331 | £100 |
| QSL Service Outwards | £468 | £500 |
| Inwards | £828 | £467 |
| Stationery & Admin. Expenses | £1,646 | £562 |
| P.O. Box Rental | £70 | £70 |
| Insurance | £294 | £316 |
| Committee Meetings | £475 | £280 |
| AGM Costs | £60 | £566 |
| IARU Dues | £734 | £806 |
| EIORTS Licence Fee | £16 | £8 |
| Depreciation | £172 | Nil |
| Conference Reserve | £1,000 | £1,000 |
| Bank Charges | £161 | £107 |
| Trophies (Counties Contests, etc.) | £420 | £325 |
| Website Costs | £313 | £491 |
| Millennium Award | Nil | £1,000 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | £16,529 | £14,450 |

Surplus/Deficit for Year

| | |
|---------|---------|
| (£612) | £828 |
| ----- | ----- |
| £15,917 | £15,278 |
| ===== | ===== |

Auditors Report

We, the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.

Signed:

Thomas McLoughlin EI400

Ger Gervin EI8CC

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2001

1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account.

Subscriptions covering any period after 31st December 2001 were not treated as prepaid.

No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

2. General Reserve

| | |
|--|---------|
| Balance as at 1 st January 2001 | £22,178 |
| Add: Surplus for year 2001 | £828 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Balance as at 31 st December 2001 | £23,006 |
|--|---------|

3. Equipment

All Equipment in the possession of the Society has been fully depreciated.

4. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at the issue price (£1.80 per share).

The Market Value of these shares on 21st January was £3,135 (€3,976).

5. Cash on Deposit

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2000 | 2001 |
| Irish Life and Permanent plc. | £13,044 | £18,519 |

6. IARU Conference Reserve

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| | 2000 | 2001 |
| Balance on 1 st January | £1,128 | £2,128 |
| Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account | £1,000 | £1,000 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Balance on 31 st December | £2,128 | £3,128 |
| | ===== | ===== |

7. Currency

These accounts are presented in Irish Pounds on the basis that the vast bulk of the transactions to which they relate were denominated in that currency.



Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

This time we are concentrating on the 2001 Islands On The Air Contest.

As you will see from the table below, there were 13 entries from EI stations, making this by far the most popular event with EI Contesters.

The top EI station this time was the crew at EJ4GK made up of Sean EI4GK, Declan EI9HQ, Joe EI7GY, Mark EI7FNB and Kohei EI8JC/JR0BAQ.

EI0A was operated by members of the Mayo Club and EJ3HB was operated from Clear Island by Jeremy EI5GM, Finbarr EI1CS, Chuck EI4IS, Andy EI8IM and SWL's Daniel, Tom and Alan.

John Corless EI7IQ made the difficult

trip to the lesser Saltee Island (the first time this was activated) and finished fourth in the world in the 100w DXpedition section.

Look at the records box at the bottom of the page and you will see that new records were set in five of the seven sections this year.

If you want to have a detailed look at all the EI scores over the years, then visit the EI7GL website.

Those planning island trips this year should have a close look at the rules.

There have been some changes in Island qualification.

IOTA 2002 - EI Scores

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|-----|--------|--|
| Multi-Op Island | | | | | |
| EJ4GK/P | 4,916,343 | 1,867 | 331 | EU-006 | |
| EI0A | 2,181,120 | 1,216 | 256 | EU-115 | |
| EJ3HB | 1,466,850 | 1,371 | 154 | EU-121 | |
| 24 Hour SSB | | | | | |
| EI8IR | 2,222,148 | 1,642 | 223 | EU-115 | |
| EI8GS | 1,098,330 | 1,318 | 155 | EU-115 | |
| EI7IQ | 983,916 | 936 | 151 | EU-103 | |
| EI2CH | 333,036 | 301 | 116 | EU-115 | |
| 24 Hour CW | | | | | |
| EI4BZ | 477,480 | 660 | 115 | EU-115 | |
| 12 Hour SSB | | | | | |
| EI7GL | 612,456 | 424 | 151 | EU-115 | |
| EI7CC | 450,468 | 400 | 129 | EU-115 | |
| EI4CF | 286,407 | 241 | 121 | EU-115 | |
| 12 Hour CW | | | | | |
| EI4DW | 170,826 | 370 | 71 | EU-115 | |
| 12 Hour Multi-Mode | | | | | |
| EI5DI | 260,820 | 567 | 84 | EU-115 | |

Challenge F8SH

Last year the first challenge F8SH devoted to the E sporadic propagation on the 2 meters band took place. The collected logs are sent to Mr Jim Bacon, G3YLA, IARU research co-ordinator and serve to feed a database for the study of this type of propagation.

No less than 21 stations (F, ON, OZ) sent a log and the winner was Dominique, F4BWJ, who won the challenge with 73 QSOs and 29 locators.

The best distance was achieved by Blaude, F9OE, who realised the best DX with 2451 Km (QSO with LZ1KWT in KN32AS from IN78QG).

This year, the promoters have decided to renew the challenge and hope for more participants. To take part, nothing is simpler. You have just to send a certified copy of your log with all the established contacts via Es between 1st May and 30th September 2002 to one of the promoters.

Rules of the challenge and results of last year can be seen on the website: <http://challengef8sh.iffance.com>.

For the people who have not Internet, a copy of the rules can be obtained on request from the organisers:

Christophe Auzzino (F8ACF), Résidence les Korrigans BAT 3 N° 9, F-56170 Quiberon (France) or Daniel Vandewalle (ON7VZ), rue des Déportés 5 B, B-7866 Ollignies (Belgium).

EI All Time IOTA Records

| Category | Callsign | QSO's | Multipliers | Points | Year | Posn |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------|-------------|-----------|------|------|
| Multi-Operator | EI1DD | 2,312 | 400 | 5,715,600 | 2000 | 11th |
| Single-Op, 24 Hour-Mixed | EI5DI | 1,052 | 190 | 1,243,718 | 1999 | 2nd |
| Single-Op, 24 Hour-CW | EI4BZ | 660 | 115 | 477,480 | 2001 | 16th |
| Single-Op, 24 Hour-SSB | EI8IR | 1,842 | 223 | 2,222,418 | 2001 | 4th |
| Single-Op, 12 Hour-Mixed | EI5DI | 567 | 84 | 260,820 | 2001 | 8th |
| Single-Op, 12 Hour-CW | EI4DW | 370 | 71 | 170,826 | 2001 | 32nd |
| Single-Op, 12 Hour-SSB | EI7GL | 424 | 151 | 612,456 | 2001 | 8th |

Give Us Back Our IRTS Newsletter !!

Tony EI5EM (ei5em@eircom.net)

A few years ago I was given a copy of the November 1948 IRTS Newsletter by Joe EI4FV.

It must be remembered that this was published when amateur radio was just finding its feet again after World War 2, over fifty years ago. The Newsletter was nothing spectacular. It had no photographs or fancy graphics and I am sure it was printed on one of those old wax stencil duplication machines that one sees no more.

It provides a fascinating glimpse into the past and demonstrates how far the technology has progressed over the period since. But alas, I was left wondering if the knowledge of the average radio amateur has progressed at the same rate as has the technology.

Technology itself is a wonderful tool. We can all use that technology. But how many of us ever try to understand it.

After all we are supposed to be Radio Experimenters.

Sadly many of today's sophisticated "operators" wouldn't know how to solder a PL259 plug onto a length of coaxial cable.

The more I read of the 1948 Newsletter the more I am filled with admiration and respect for those amateurs who managed to get a signal out under the most difficult of circumstances. Black box rigs did not exist and components were not easy to come by. Many rigs were home-built or else army surplus equipment was ingeniously adapted for amateur use.

I salute you, you amateurs of yesteryear.

Lt us get back to the Newsletter.

Dr. T.D. O'Farrell, EI6F was IRTS President. The Treasurer was Tom Green, EI9N with whom I am pleased to say I had a few QSOs in more recent times. Capt. A.C. Woods, EI3L was Secretary and W.H. Coombs, EI6J was editor. A new callsign EI6X had just been issued.

This edition was published shortly after the IRTS Convention and just before the AGM in Jury's.

It was reported that negotiations were in hand with Dept of P & T over licensing conditions and new frequencies.

Tom Green read a paper on the growth of the hobby in Ireland. He described the

experiments in 1836 of Fr. Callan in Maynooth College.

Marconi's visits to Ireland were recounted and a short biography of Col. Dennis was also given. It seems there was a spark transmitter in Castlenock College in 1912.

In 1925 the prefix for Ireland changed from GW to EI.

The Dublin Wireless Club formed in 1912, and it eventually merged with IRTS in 1932.

The editor then went on to mention the difficulties of bringing out a newsletter every month.

The QSL manager EI2P gave advice on sending cards via the bureau. Many of the issues were similar to issues of today. The meeting adjourned for dinner. The oldest licenced member EI4B was toasted. Ireland, IRTS, Our Visitors and of course "The Ladies" were also toasted. The evening concluded at 10.30.....but many private parties lasted well into the following day".

The following morning a convoy of cars took off to visit the shacks of EI2P and EI8P and then proceeded to Bray for lunch.

After lunch the shacks of Fr. Jim Stone EI4Q (I worked Jim many times), EI3L and EI6J were also visited.

By all accounts it was a great weekend. Donors of prizes for raffles or "swindles" included Phillips, Brownlee Bros. and Kelly & Shiel Ltd.

Another sponsor donated a pair of PT15s and nylons (the mind boggles).

- A technical article gave details of converting an RF26 to cover 10 and 2 metres.
- EI3J's 60ft. tower was demolished recently in high winds.
- EI8Q had just rebuilt his rig
- EI6G hoped to transmit soon on 6 metres.
- EI4D was experimenting with grid modulation.
- There was an article on the cubicle quad antenna.

EI8P contributed an article on designing radio equipment. He bemoaned the fact that many amateurs were lazy and preferred to sit back and make use of other

people's work rather than building their own equipment. How he would cringe today.

What would he think of seeing even simple wire antennas sold in fancy plastic packaging at rallies?

There was also a technical article by T. L. Shepherd on AF electronics showing how inter-stage matching and gain is achieved.

The most interesting technical article was entitled **The Transistor May Render Vacuum Tubes Obsolete.**

It states that this new device was recently demonstrated at Bell Labs. It operates on a new principle and "more than a hundred germanium transistors can be held in the palm of the hand". Tests have shown that these devices will amplify 20dBs and some have even operated up to 10 MCs (MHz).

However present designs can only handle "about 50 milliwatts".

The Bell Labs. experiment demonstrated a radio broadcast on a receiver built entirely of transistors.

This newsletter provided a fascinating glimpse back into the past.

It's nearly 54 years since it was published. This was a couple of years before I was born.

It just fills me with admiration for those OMs. They really got stuck in and were experimenters in the true sense of the word.

I'm not sure how long before 1948 the IRTS Newsletter existed.

However, in recent years somebody decided to kill off part of our hobby's history by bringing the IRTS Newsletter's days to an end.

In its place we got ECHO IRELAND. Why, why, why I ask?

Is it just an echo of the golden age of our hobby in Ireland?




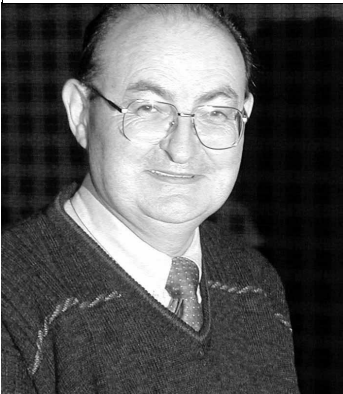
Could I plead with the Committee to

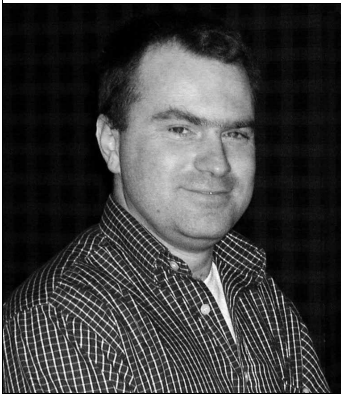




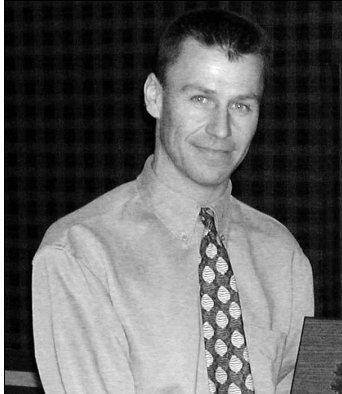
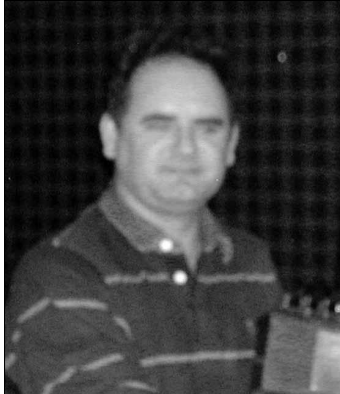

**"Give Us Back Our
IRTS Newsletter !!!!!".**

Editors Note:

I think it will always be referred to as the Newsletter.

What do you think?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Arup Cup | The Collins Cup | The Pat Conway Cup | The Presidents Cup |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sean Donelan EI4GK For 10 years outstanding service as IRTS Treasurer together with many other duties | East Cork Group EI7M For many notable achievements over a long time, especially in this past year | Joe Ryan EI7GY For remarkable service as membership officer and record keeper since 1989. | Mike McNamara EI2CL For his commitment to the incoming bureau since 1980. |
| The Sheila Piper Cup | The Folan Shield | The Kevin Freeney Trophy | The Tom Donnellan Cup |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sean Nolan EI7CD For long and distinguished service as a newsreader. | John Melvin EI6AMB For the construction of a 2 metre transceiver | John Corless EI7IQ For the construction of a remote switching system. | Tim Makins EI8IC Leading EI single-operator in the CQWW CW Contest |
| The IRTS DX Cup | The Hal Hodgins Key | The Pete Daly Cup | The Paddy Smyth Cup |
|  |  |  |  |
| John Barry EI8IR Leading EI single-operator in the 2001 IOTA Contest | Ken McDermott EI4DW Top EI single op. in the 12 Hr CW, 2001 IOTA Contest | East Cork EI7M Leading station in the CW Field Day Open Section (Pictured Jerry EI6BT) | Joe Ryan EI7GY Leading station in the CW Field Day Restricted Section. |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|-----|-------------------|------------------|--|-------|-----------|-------|--|------------|-----------|---------|----|---------|-----------|-----------------|--|-------|-----------|---------------|--|---------|-----------|-------------|--|---------|-----------|------|--|------|-----------|------------------|----|---------|-----------|-------|--|-----|--|--|--|-------|-----------|----------------------|--|-------|-----------|---------------------|----|---------|-----------|-----------------------|--|---------|-----------|----------------|--|---------|-----------|------------------|----|------|--|--|--|-------|-----------|--------------|----|-------|-----------|------------------|----|--|
| <div>The Paddy Daly Microphone</div> <div></div> <div>East Cork Group EI7M Leading station in the SSB Field Day Open Section (Pictured John EI8IR)</div> | <div>The IRTS HF Shield</div> <div></div> <div>Cork Radio Club EI5CRC Leading station in the SSB Field Day Restricted Section (Pictured Fr. Finbarr EI1CS)</div> | <div>Thomond Trophy</div> <div></div> <div>Mayo R.E.N. EI5IX Leading station in the VHF/ UHF Field Day, Open Section (Pictured Frances EI5J)</div> | <div>The IRTS VHF Shield</div> <div></div> <div>Tipperary ARG Leading station in the VHF/ UHF Field Day, Restd Sect. (Pictured EI2JB)</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div>The EI7IQ 6 Metre Shield</div> <div></div> <div>Dave Court EI3IO Leading EI station on 6 Me- tres during the year 2001</div> | <div>The Slievenamon Shield</div> <div></div> <div>Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI 70cms FM activity during July.</div> | <div>The Ian Morris Memorial Trophy</div> <div></div> <div>Thos Caffery EI 1333 Most DXCC entities heard and confirmed during the past year.</div> | <div>Climbing the Pole Brings its own reward</div> <div></div> <div>Jeremy EI5GM</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div>Contest Calendar</div> <table><tr><td>April</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1st</td><td>1400-1600 (local)</td><td>IRTS 2m Counties</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6/7th</td><td>1500-1500</td><td>SP DX</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12/13/14th</td><td>2300-2300</td><td>JIDX HF</td><td>CW</td></tr><tr><td>13/14th</td><td>2100-2100</td><td>Yuri Gagarin DX</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13/14</td><td>1800-1800</td><td>King of Spain</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>20/21st</td><td>1800-1800</td><td>Holyland DX</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>20/21st</td><td>1200-1200</td><td>GACW</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>20th</td><td>1500-1859</td><td>EU Spring Sprint</td><td>CW</td></tr><tr><td>20/21st</td><td>1200-1200</td><td>YU DX</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4/5th</td><td>2000-2000</td><td>ARI International DX</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4/5th</td><td>0001-2359</td><td>10-10 International</td><td>CW</td></tr><tr><td>11/12th</td><td>2100-2100</td><td>CQ-M International DX</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>18/19th</td><td>2100-2100</td><td>Baltic Contest</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>25/26th</td><td>0001-2539</td><td>CQWW WPX Contest</td><td>CW</td></tr><tr><td>June</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1/2nd</td><td>1500-1500</td><td>CW Field Day</td><td>CW</td></tr><tr><td>1/2nd</td><td>0001-2359</td><td>WW South America</td><td>CW</td></tr></table> | | | April | | | | 1st | 1400-1600 (local) | IRTS 2m Counties | | 6/7th | 1500-1500 | SP DX | | 12/13/14th | 2300-2300 | JIDX HF | CW | 13/14th | 2100-2100 | Yuri Gagarin DX | | 13/14 | 1800-1800 | King of Spain | | 20/21st | 1800-1800 | Holyland DX | | 20/21st | 1200-1200 | GACW | | 20th | 1500-1859 | EU Spring Sprint | CW | 20/21st | 1200-1200 | YU DX | | May | | | | 4/5th | 2000-2000 | ARI International DX | | 4/5th | 0001-2359 | 10-10 International | CW | 11/12th | 2100-2100 | CQ-M International DX | | 18/19th | 2100-2100 | Baltic Contest | | 25/26th | 0001-2539 | CQWW WPX Contest | CW | June | | | | 1/2nd | 1500-1500 | CW Field Day | CW | 1/2nd | 0001-2359 | WW South America | CW | <div>I.R.T.S. Radio News Service</div> <div>Input for the radio news should be sent to:</div> <div>Mark Wall EI7IS 22 Sunshine Crescent, Waterford 086-6302026 ei7is@qsl.net or Cyberis@e-merge.ie</div> <div>Deadline 2100 on Tuesdays for the following Sunday</div> |
| April | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1st | 1400-1600 (local) | IRTS 2m Counties | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6/7th | 1500-1500 | SP DX | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12/13/14th | 2300-2300 | JIDX HF | CW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13/14th | 2100-2100 | Yuri Gagarin DX | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13/14 | 1800-1800 | King of Spain | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20/21st | 1800-1800 | Holyland DX | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20/21st | 1200-1200 | GACW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20th | 1500-1859 | EU Spring Sprint | CW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20/21st | 1200-1200 | YU DX | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4/5th | 2000-2000 | ARI International DX | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4/5th | 0001-2359 | 10-10 International | CW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11/12th | 2100-2100 | CQ-M International DX | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18/19th | 2100-2100 | Baltic Contest | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25/26th | 0001-2539 | CQWW WPX Contest | CW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| June | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1/2nd | 1500-1500 | CW Field Day | CW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1/2nd | 0001-2359 | WW South America | CW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

How to Improve Your Signals on 70cms by 3 S-Points Without Really Trying

A look at connector and cable losses with Richard G8SHE

Who was E. Clark Quackenbush?

If you try 70 cm for the first time, after being used to 2m, quite often you may be a bit disappointed. Signals seem to propagate less well than you are used to, by quite a large margin.

You may blame the band; you may blame your antenna; you may blame your rig.

It's very unlikely you will blame a small component which is probably responsible for a lot of the loss of signal.

To begin the story, we have to go back to the 1930's, when if someone invented something they normally named it proudly after themselves.

Oddly, E. Clark Quackenbush did not do so when he invented a new connector, specifically for use at the VHF and UHF frequencies then being newly investigated.

The connector is commonly known as the UHF connector, which is a grave misnomer. The UHF range of frequencies start at 300 MHz, which is the frequency at which this connector really stops being usable.

VK3JEG's website, <http://minyos.its.rmit.edu.au/~rmmca/pl259tst.html> - well worth a visit, tells the sad story.

At 70 cm, the loss of a UHF connector is about 1 dB, the VSWR can be as bad as 2.3:1. As he sums up, if you have a 25 watt transmitter, some 6 watts are being absorbed or reflected by the connector. By contrast, an N-type connector absorbs almost nothing (0.02 dB) and reflects little (1.04:1 VSWR).

N-Type Connector

The N-type was named after Paul Neill of Bell Labs in the late 1940's, when the need for a connector which would give good performance to 18 GHz had become evident.

Later he collaborated with Carl Concelman of Amphenol to come up with the Bayonet Neill-Concelman (BNC) and Threaded Neill-Concelman (TNC) connectors; the days of E. Clark Quackenbush's modesty were over.

As most of us are using Japanese black box transceivers, which usually come with UHF connectors, this creates a quandary. If the equipment is out of

warranty, you will almost certainly be able to replace the UHF socket on the back of the rig with a drop-in N-type replacement - companies such as Rosenberger (www.rosenberger.de) and Suhner (www.hubersuhner.com) make a huge range of connectors, of which at least one of which is likely to fit your rig. Welcome back, those missing six watts.

But there is another advantage in changing to an N-type connector. Having changed the connector on the rig, you will at the same time be changing the connector on the cable. N-types are available to fit a very wide range of cables, whereas as UHF connectors only fit two or three.

Why might you want to change the cable at the same time? Very simply, attenuation.

The loss of a 30 m run of several types of cable at 70 cm is as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| RG-58/U (URM43) | 12 dB |
| RG-213/U (URM67) | 4.8 dB |
| 1/4" (same size as RG-58) | 2.8 dB |
| 3/8" (same size as RG-213) | 2.04 dB |
| 1/2" | 1.44 dB |

Changing from RG-58/U to 1/4" makes a difference over 30m - not an untypical run - of 9 dB. Add that to the insertion loss and reflection loss you've eliminated when you took the UHF connectors out of the system, and you will pick up 12 to 13 dB - the equivalent of boosting the 19 watts which previously made it past the output connector of your 25 watt rig, to 300 watts!

Historically, the inch-designated cables have been regarded as the reserve of moonbounce enthusiasts and repeater groups, due to cost.

Things are changing. Firstly, the commercial users of these cables rarely want lengths of less than 30m, so off-cuts used to just get thrown away, because the manufacturers are used to dealing with "the trade" only, and (for the same reason) charged amateurs premium prices. Secondly, the cable came from

abroad, so there were significant shipping costs. And thirdly, the connectors were expensive.

Things have changed. Paul Murphy on 086-2498498 (this advert will cost you a pint, Paul!) is stocking the cable at his depots in Mullingar and Dublin and is keeping aside the off-cuts rather than just throwing them away.

EU anti-dumping rules mean that he can't sell the cable at less than manufacturing cost, but the pricing is comparable to RG cable of the same size.

Which just leaves the connectors: these are precision-made, silver-plated, and designed to last a lifetime.

They are still expensive.

Recently, some people who have overstocked have sold off their surplus via E-bay, where they typically sell for about half the normal price. At this level, the price is comparable to that of an N-type for an RG cable, that is to say about double the price of a UHF connector for the same cable.

In other words, you're paying about an extra € for the equivalent of boosting the power from 19 to 300 watts.

A bit cheaper than a linear...

There are three major manufacturers of inch-designated cable: Andrew, RFS, and Eupen.

Andrew connectors will only fit Andrew cable. Anyone else's connectors (as well as RFS and Eupen there are other manufacturers such as IMS, SEE, Rosenberger, Spinner, Suhner) will fit all three manufacturer's

Finally we come to the far end of the cable, where it attaches to the antenna. If the antenna is a colinear, you can normally specify it with an N-type for an extra five pounds sterling (about €8), thus eliminating another couple of connector losses and picking up another dB or two.

If you have a rotator, things are not so simple. Inch-designated cable is designed to be fixed once and not moved thereafter. You need to terminate the cable (with an N-type, of course) 30 cm or so below the rotator, and the take a

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(Continued from page 20)

“tail” of RG cable about 1 metre long to the feed-point of your Yagi. This is going to add another €10 to your shopping bill.

If you cover the joint up with self-amalgamating tape, and then cover that with black insulating tape, this will keep the weather out (Self-amalgamating tape degrades with UV exposure, so the insulating tape is to keep the burning rays of Irish sunshine off it.).

All this is standard practice for professional radio users, who expect the installation to work without any degradation or maintenance for 20 years plus.

An immediate reaction is “oh, another pair of connections means another 1 dB loss” - not for N-types, the additional loss is negligible. The 1 dB loss figure fixed in everyone’s minds relates *only* to UHF connectors.

If you do all this, suddenly you will find that 70 cm can be a DX band after all. But do watch out for a couple of quirks:

1. “My antenna pattern has changed”. It will. The radiation leaked from a braided cable interferes with the pattern from the antenna. Usually this is an undesired effect, but once in a blue moon it can give an omni-directional antenna a “lobe” in the direction of a distant repeater. If you want the lobe back, and the colinear has radials, you can usually bring the lobe back by fiddling about with the radials.

2. “The VSWR’s got worse”. If the VSWR of a bad antenna has been attenuated by lossy cable, the antenna looks better than it is. Improving the cable shows up the shortcomings of your antenna. If you now match your antenna properly as well, you might pick up some more S-points!

3. “The power meter isn’t giving me the results I’d expect”. If your VSWR meter has input and output UHF connectors, with a VSWR of about 2:1, and is trying to read a nicely-matched antenna and feeder system at almost 1:1, the results may indeed be a bit erratic.

You *can* get meters which read accurately - and which tend to have N-type connectors anyway - but they are expensive. A typical amateur Power/VSWR meter for 70 cm costs around €60; I have one which will read accurately for even a 3:1 mismatch, and it cost me €200 second-hand - a new one would be

ten times that. Use the meter for indicative purposes, and to make sure you are complying with the terms of your licence, but put most faith in signal reports. If they say your signal has gone up an S-point, while the meter says your power has gone down 10%, remember that the meter is now the weakest link in an antenna/feeder system that you have engineered to very nearly professional standards. For very little money!

Note from the author:

The article promised on accurate FM measurement with minimal test equipment, promised in the November/December 2001 Echo Ireland, will appear when the author has wrestled it down to something a little shorter than “War and Peace” - expect a Tolstoyan time-scale, viz. about five years.

In the meantime, I hope this article will be helpful for those new to the hobby, and that some of the technical data I have quoted will be useful to those who have already learnt the hard way.

Fancy a day out with 45,000 women!

If you want to take part
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on
086-2586103
for further details

Notice to all Amateur Radio Operators and Individuals using Communications Equipment while Driving a Mechanically Propelled Vehicle in a Public Place in the Republic of Ireland

On the 19th March 2002, Legislation was signed banning the use of **Mobile Phones** and **Other Similar Apparatus** by persons driving Mechanically Propelled Vehicles in public places.

Offence: The driver of a mechanically propelled vehicle that is in a public place, shall not hold or have on or about their person, a mobile phone or other similar apparatus while in the said vehicle, except when it is parked.

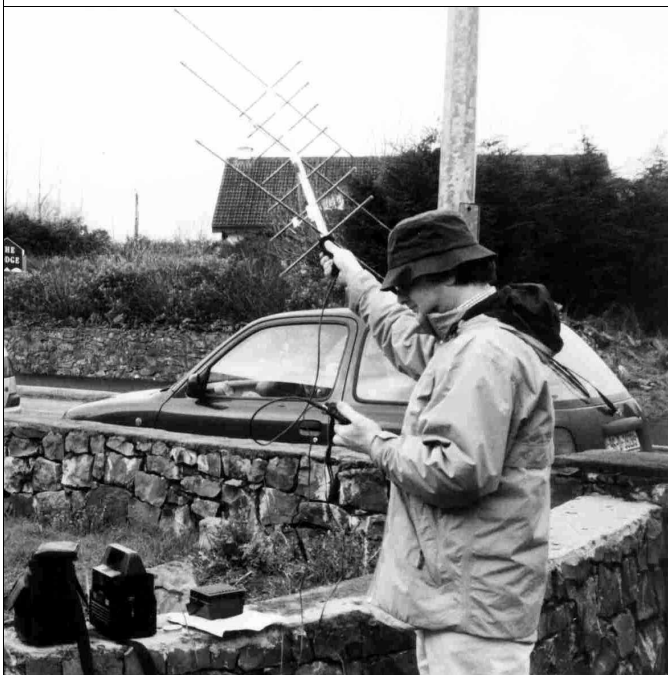
Mobile Phone: means any device which is being use directly by a person for the purpose of communication by way of mobile and personal communications systems

Other Similar Apparatus: means any device, other than a mobile phone, which is being used directly by a person for the purpose of communication by way of radio waves of any frequency, including but not limited to citizen band radio, short range hand held radio communication apparatus and private mobile radio apparatus.

Mobile and Personal Communications Systems: means systems consisting of a mobile network infrastructure whether connected or not to public network termination points, to support the transmission and provision of radio telecommunications services to mobile users.

There are no exemptions to this law

EI4ABB OSCAR 14 Demo at Knock



Aengus EI4ABB did a very successful demonstration of Satellite working at the AGM in Knock.

Using a handheld crossed Yagi with four elements on 2 and 7 elements on 70cms with a standard dual band handheld, Aengus worked many stations through Oscar 14. The uplink is 145.985 and the downlink is on 435.070. Pass times are available on www.heavensabove.com.



Dave Thom, Broadcasting Manager with the Office of the Director of Telecommunications and the man responsible for experimenters licensing, pictured with IRTS President Dave Moore EI4BZ at the Annual General Meeting at Knock.

Video Library

Selection of radio related videos available on loan

Jim Ryan, EI3DP,
11 Knockgriffin, Midleton,
Co. Cork.
Telephone 021-4632365

Members Advertisements

For Sale:

AOR 5000, fitted with descrambler.

FT747 with auto ATU, extra filter and VHF/UHF splitter.

1VX 2000, receive 0-2000MHz. Tx 6m, 2m and 70cms.

Oregon Scientific Weather Station, still under guarantee.

Hygain TH3 Mk3 HF Beam

FC902 ATU

4m, 6m 2 element quad.

Communications Receiver Type PCR3

061-397004

For Sale: Yaesu FT290 Mk2, SSB/FM/CW Multimode, complete with matching linear, and mobile mounting bracket. Owned by me from new. Price €285.-

Tokyo 2M linear, Hi-Pwr Model HL-180V. Max output pwr 170 watts. Wide range drive pwr 0.5 - 25 watt. All mode compatibility, SSB/FM/CW. Owned by me from new.

Boxed. Price: €275.-

Daiwa adjustable power supply: 0-15 volts, 25 Amps, fully metered, never been used. Boxed. Ideal for all types of radios.

Price: €100.-

Original Yaesu CAT interface, FIF 232, allows suitable Yaesu radios to be controlled by yr PC. New. Price €50.-

Yaesu FYP-80 Pwr supply, 13.8 volts, 2-3 amps, ideal for small radios. Price €30.-

Darlington Quartzlock Off-Air frequency standard, model 2A.

Output 10MHz, 5MHz and 1MHz, accuracy: 2 parts in 10E8, or 2 parts in 10E9 over 10 seconds. New in box. Price €350.-

Diamond SWR/Pwr meter SX9000, top of the range, 1.8 to 160 MHz and 430 to 1300MHz. Fully automatic SWR calibration, backlit display, max. power measurement of 200 Watt. Bought new. Price €150.-

Autec Research RF-1 HF Analyst, a must for serious HF antenna work. Measures Freq. SWR, Z, L and C between 1 and 30 MHz. New in box with manual. Price €130.-

AEA VHF/UHF handheld graphical antenna analyser, plots SWR curve over adjustable frequency range, can be connected to a PC to store readouts. A dream for the VHF/UHF antenna experimenter. Bought new. Price €300.-

Brand new Hitachi Oscilloscope. DC to 50MHz, 1Mv/division, large 6" screen, Alt Mag 1X, 10X, Auto Focus, Cursors illuminated on Screen, Illuminated graticule, Time/Div 19 steps 0.2us/div to 0.2s/div, etc etc. Price €400.-

Contact Albert EI7II on 027-61397 or email EI7II@eircom.net

Wanted : photocopy of manual for Datong FL3 Multi-Filter , all costs incurred will be reimbursed.

Declan Craig EI6FR ei6fr@gofree.indigo.ie

For Sale: Complete QRP station consisting of Index QRP Plus Transceiver, DSP, all HF bands, SSB 3.5w, CW 5w. Manual keying and electronic keying. ATU (new) MFJ type 971.

Matching 3 amp stabilised PSU. All manuals and diagrams.

This rig won the SDR spring challenge in 2000 with 47 countries CW/5w. Presently has worked 50 countries CW/5w with 3 days to go in contest

Phone EI2AJ on 01-8211043

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**Information on stalls from
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WSJT—What is it?

The recent claim of a transatlantic QSO between Newfoundland and Co. Kerry using WSJT has heightened interest in this mode.

Alex N2PIG claims that on March 19th he successfully completed a QSO, using WSJT on 2 Metres, with his wife Debra VA2PIG who was located in County Kerry.

WSJT is a digital mode, designed specifically for meteor scatter communications.

It stands for Weak Signal communications by Joe Taylor K1JT.

Its advantage for is that it sends extremely fast in a standard SSB bandwidth at 147 characters per second or about 1700 words per minute.

By virtue of this speed it is possible to send two call signs and a signal report in a tenth of a second meteor ping.

The equipment to make WSJT contacts is fairly modest.

A two meter SSB transceiver and a computer -- a Pentium, at least 75 MHz is the main hardware required.

Then you need a simple PSK-31 interface box, as described in March 2000 AR magazine and some WSJT software.

An RF power output of 50 watts is the practical minimum, with 100 watts providing a worthwhile improvement.

A major advantage with WSJT is the small antenna system required.

A five element Yagi will do as well as a 10 element Yagi.



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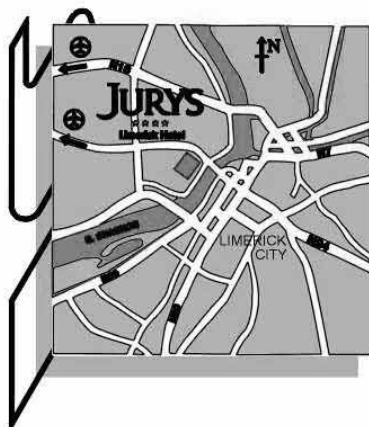
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